

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 08088 070402Z

16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /144 W

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R 070230Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2436

INFO CINCPAC

USSAG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 8088

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CB

SUBJECT: KHMER OFFICIALS NOT BUGGING OUT, BUT SOME FAMILIES LEAVE

1. DURING THE PAST MONTH WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON DEPARTURES OF KHMER FOR FOREIGN DESTINATIONS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE ARE ANY SIGNS THAT THE DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION IS PROVOKING A FLIGHT OF IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES FROM THE COUNTRY. TO DATE THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT INDICATION OF ANY TREND IN THIS DIRECTION HAS BEEN THE DEPARTURE OF THE WIVES AND OTHER CLOSE RELATIVES OF A NUMBER OF HIGH-RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS. THIS, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO BE AS YET A MODERATE INCREASE IN THE PAST YEARS' SCHOOL VACATION EXODUS, WHICH WAS ALSO PROMPTED IN SOME DEGREE BY SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. BECAUSE THESE DEPARTURES ARE DRAWING SOME ATTENTION FROM FOREIGN JOURNALISTS AND EMBASSIES, WE HAVE LISTED BELOW SPECIFIC, NOTABLE INSTANCES WHICH HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION.

2. THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE BLOC OF DEPARTURES HAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 08088 070402Z

BEEN THAT OF FAMILIES OF MANY IMPORTANT MILITARY

OFFICERS. AT THE PRESENT TIME ALL THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF GENERALS KANG KENG (AMBASSADOR AT LARGE), MEY SICHAN (GOVERNOR OF KAMPOT), THONG VAN FAN MUONG (DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF), AND MAO SUM KHEM (ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF OR LOGISTICS) ARE BELIEVED TO BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY. THE WIVES AND SOME OF THE CHILDREN OF BG DIEN DEL (COMMANDER OF THE 2ND DIVISION), CHEA KIM ENG (NATIONAL GENDARMERIE COMMANDER), AND HOU HANG SIN (ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR OPERATIONS) ARE OUT OF THE COUNTRY BUT OTHER CHILDREN REMAIN HERE. THE TWO CHILDREN OF BG CHHIM CHHUON (COMMANDER OF THE PHNOM PENH SUBDIVISION) ARE IN BANGKOK WHERE THEY WILL BE JOINED SHORTLY BY THEIR MOTHER. THE CHILDREN OF NAVY COMMANDER VONG SARENDY ARE ABROAD BUT HIS WIFE IS HERE. THERE IS AN UNVERIFIED REPORT THAT THE FAMILY OF MG THAPPANA NGINN IS ALSO ABROAD. MRS. SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ HAD BEEN ABROAD BUT HAS NOW RETURNED TO PHNOM PENH. THE FAMILY OF BG UN KAU V (7TH DIVISION COMMANDER) WAS REPORTELY PLANNING A TRIP ABROAD BUT WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION THAT THEY HAVE DEPARTED.

3. THE TRAVELS OF MANY OFFICERS' FAMILIES HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS VACATIONS OR TRIPS TO ACCOMPANY CHILDREN ABROAD FOR ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOL. SOME OF THESE, SUCH AS THE FAMILY OF HOU HANG SIN, ARE KNOWN TO HAVE TAKEN VACATIONS ABROAD LAST YEAR.

4. AS FOR GENERAL OFFICERS THEMSELVES, ONLY BGS LES KOSSEM AND THONG BEAULLAN ARE REPORTED OUT OF THE COUNTRY ON EXTENDED STAYS. KOSSEM LEFT WITH HIS FAMILY FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT IN FRANCE. BEAULLAN, WHOSE WIFE IS FRENCH, HAS BEEN GIVEN A SPECIAL ATTACHE ASSIGNMENT IN PARIS AFTER BEING ORDERED BACK TO PHNOM PENH IN JULY.

5. ON THE CIVILIAN SIDE THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT KEY FIGURES OR THEIR FAMILIES ARE DEPARTING IN UNUSUAL NUMBERS SEVERAL SUCH AS NEANG CHIN HAN (LON NOL'S DIRECTEUR DE CABINET) AND ING KIETH (DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS) HAVE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TRIPS ABROAD. SENG BUN KORN (DIRECTOR OF INADANA JATI BANK) IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO PHNOM PENH ON AUGUST 7

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 08088 070402Z

ALTHOUGH HIS FAMILY WILL REMAIN IN FRANCE. THONN OUK (DIRECTOR OF TELAKHMER) IS ON VACATION IN FRANCE WITH HIS WIFE AND HAS SAID HE WILL BASE HIS RETURN UPON THE LOCAL SITUATION. LA AU BOUNPA (COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT) IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY WITH HIS FAMILY AND THERE IS NO INDICATION AS TO HIS FUTURE PLANS. THE FAMILY OF PHU SY UY (DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS) IS IN FRANCE AND HE INTENDS TO JOIN THEM THERE

SHORTLY. HE HAS DENIED ANY INTENTION OF BUGGING
OUT AND SAYS HE WILL RETURN TO CAMBODIA AFTER A
SHORT VACATION. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, NO OTHER HIGH
RANKING CIVILIAN OFFICIALS OR THEIR FAMILIES ARE
OUT OF THE COUNTRY ON OTHER THAN OFFICIAL BUSINESS
AT THE PRESENT TIME.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, EVACUATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM08088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS ENDERS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730853/aaaabmyz.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Nov-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <03-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER OFFICIALS NOT BUGGING OUT, BUT SOME FAMILIES LEAVE
TAGS: PINS, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005